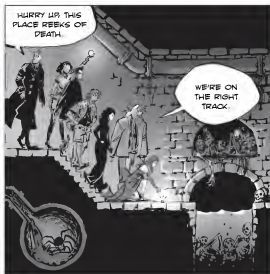
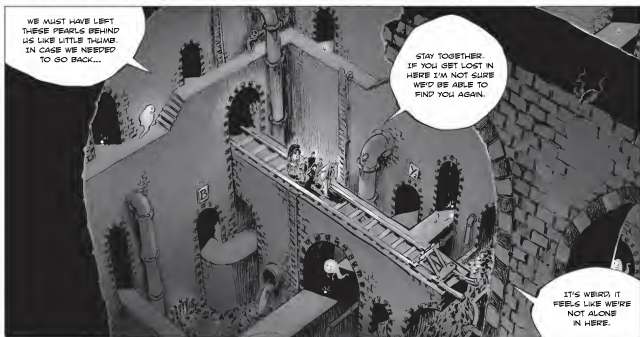


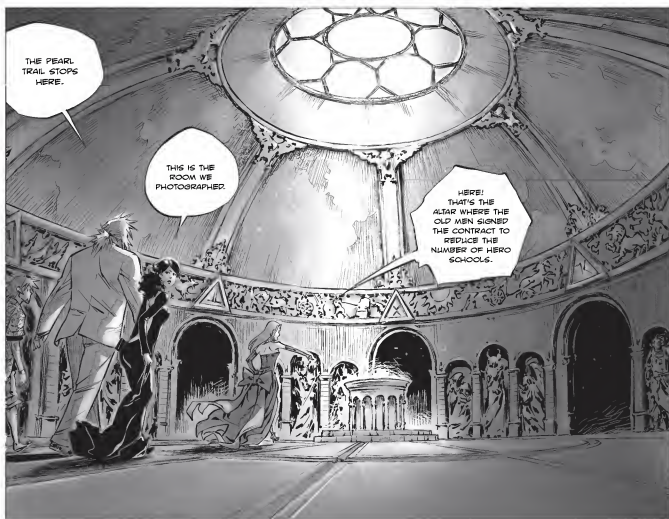


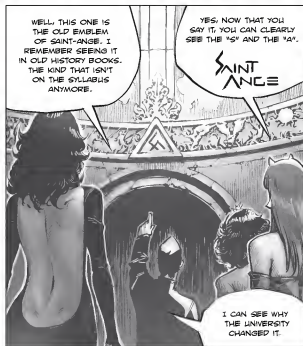
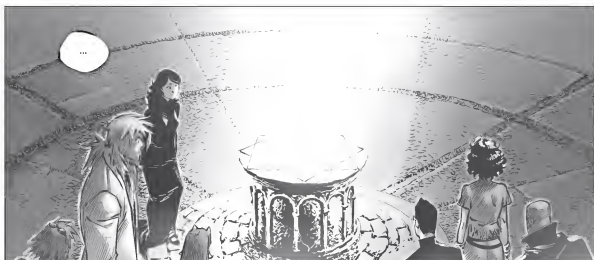
Chapitre

XXIII

THAT'S RIGHT,  
DUDE







"F", AS IN F.A.E.H.



BUT ALSO "F" AS IN "FREAK".  
MAYBE YOU DIDN'T STUDY  
THE SAME HISTORY AS US.

OUR TEACHERS KEPT  
REPEATING THAT YOUR  
UNIVERSITY WAS A PLACE  
FOR DEGENERATES  
AND MONSTERS BEFORE  
BECOMING A SECOND-  
RATE HERO UNIVERSITY.

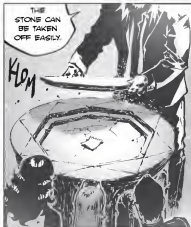


I LOST MY MEMORY SO  
EXCUSE ME IF I'M NOT  
VERY CONCERNED ABOUT  
THE RIVALRY BETWEEN  
OUR SCHOOLS.

I FOUND  
SOMETHING!



THE  
STONE CAN  
BE TAKEN  
OFF EASILY.



THERE'S A  
PIECE OF PAPER  
UNDER IT.



IT'S BLANK...  
NOT COMMON.

WAIT, I HAVE  
AN IDEA.

DON'T THROW  
IT, AND DO NOT  
CRUMPLE IT.



IN THE  
MAKE-UP SET  
THERE IS...

... AN EYE  
PENCIL!



IT'S THE EMBLEM OF  
LORELEI. IS THAT THE  
RIGHT PATH?



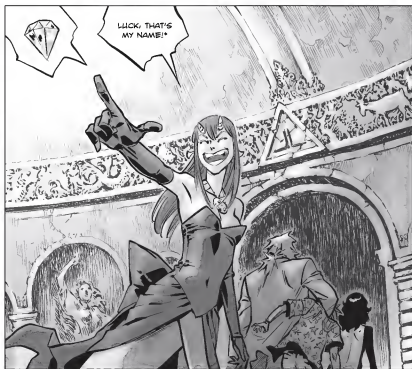
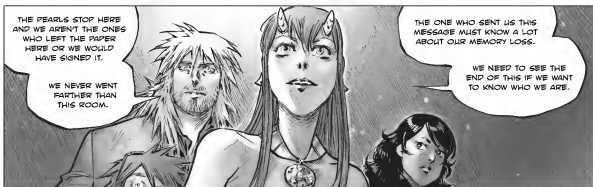
WAIT, ARE YOU SURE YOU  
WANT TO GO IN THERE?  
WHO KNOWS IF IT'S NOT  
A TRAP?

BAH!  
AT THIS  
POINT...



...WE CAN'T  
BACK OUT  
ANYMORE.



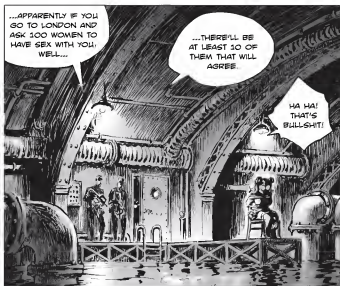


\*T.N.: CHANCE MEANS LUCK IN FRENCH





OH YOU DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
MORGAN  
FROM HUMAN  
RESOURCES  
TOLD ME?...



...APPARENTLY IF YOU  
GO TO LONDON AND  
ASK 100 WOMEN TO  
HAVE SEX WITH YOU,  
WELL...

...THERE'LL BE  
AT LEAST 10 OF  
THEM THAT WILL  
AGREE.

HA HA!  
THAT'S  
BULLSHIT!



TWO MEN!  
WELL-ARMED.



IT'S AN URBAN LEGEND, I  
HEARD THE SAME THING  
ABOUT PARIS AND  
DUSSELDORF



WHAT!?

AAAAH!



IS THAT  
YOU? I'M NOT  
DREAMING?

YOU DON'T KNOW  
HOW SCARED I'VE  
BEEN!

COME UNTIE  
ME PLEASE!



WHO IS  
SHE?

LYNETTE, I  
GUESS.

SHE FITS THE  
DESCRIPTION.

THEN SHE  
MUST HAVE  
THINGS TO  
TELL US.



EXCUSE ME  
FOR BEING  
STRAIGHTFORWARD,  
BUT YOU'LL NEED  
TO REFRESH  
OUR MEMORY.

YES I  
KNOW! THEY  
ERASED YOUR  
MEMORIES.

THEY TRIED TO  
DO THE SAME THING  
TO ME BUT IT DIDN'T  
WORK. THEY DON'T  
KNOW, BUT MY GLASSES  
PROTECT ME AGAINST  
THAT KIND OF MIND  
MANIPULATION.



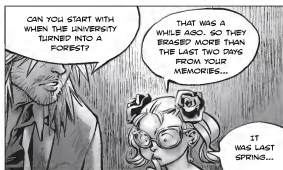
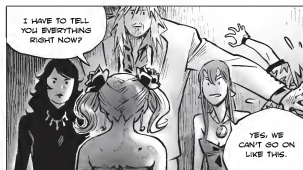
THEY LOCKED  
ME UP SO I  
WOULDN'T GO AND  
TELL EVERYONE.



PRECISELY! WE NEED  
YOU TO TELL US WHAT  
HAPPENED! THIS IDIOT  
TOLD US BUT HIS  
VERSION IS A BIT  
SKEWED SO OUR  
TRUST IN HIM KIND  
OF POOFED...

PUFFED,  
HE HE...





LET'S GO BACK TO OUR ATTEMPTS TO STOP THE PASSING OF THE LAW...

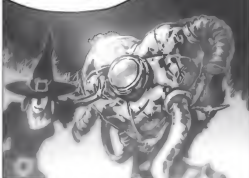


...NOBODY CAME TO HELP US LOOK FOR THOSE DOCUMENTS IN THE ARCHIVES.



EVERYTHING SUGGESTS THAT THOSE PAPERS AREN'T IN THE UNIVERSITY ANYMORE.

MEANWHILE, AMANITE AND CHANGEUN STARTED CARRYING OUT THEIR EVIL PLAN.



THE LAST I HEARD OF THEM, THEY TRAPPED THE GIANT LEGOSO THAT WAS TO BE INAUGURATED ON THE ANTONIN PONCET SQUARE.



VALKYRIE WENT TO STOP THEM BEFORE ANYONE GETS HURT.



YOU LOOK WORRIED... ANYTHING I SHOULD KNOW?



THIS VALKYRIE... SHE MUST HAVE FAILED HER MISSION, BECAUSE RIGHT NOW THE GIANT LEGOSO IS PROBABLY STILL RAVAGING THE CITY. BUT CONTINUE YOUR STORY, WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER.

OKAY, NEXT THEN... IN ORDER TO FIND THOSE DOCUMENTS, YOU STARTED SEARCHING FOR PREVIOUS DIRECTORS OF THE F.A.E.H.

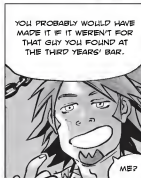
WHICH, ACTUALLY, MEANT ONLY ONE, GEOFFROY DUDIKOV.



THE MAN WAS EXTREMELY ELUSIVE. HE SPENT DAY AND NIGHT IN HIS OVERPROTECTED BUNKER.



YOU PROBABLY WOULD HAVE MADE IT IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT GUY YOU FOUND AT THE THIRD YEARS' BAR.



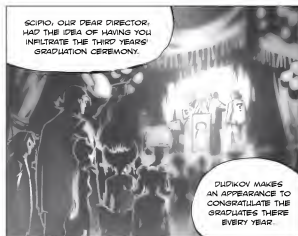
ME?



ADDITIONALLY, YOU HAD TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ANGE'S TEAM, WHO WERE SUPPORTED BY THE THREE OCCULT FINGERS.

YES, WE ALREADY MET THEM. NEXT?





THAT'S WHEN  
FUNERAILLES ARRIVED.

THAT'S  
MY MAN!

ALWAYS ELEGANT IN  
HIS JET BLACK COAT, HIS  
DARK HAIR CASCADING ON  
HIS BROAD, REASSURING  
SHOULDERS.

HIS PALE SKIN COVERS THIN  
BUT ROCK HARD MUSCLES. HIS  
BODY IS A REAL WAR MACHINE.  
TRUE ALCHEMIST, AS FAST AS  
LIGHTNING, HE RIPS THE AIR  
AND BEATS OUR ENEMIES  
TO THE GROUND.

WHAT A  
MAN!

THEN, THE  
MYSTERIOUS PRINCE  
OF THE NIGHT GETS  
CLOSER TO THE  
YOUNG WOMAN,  
WHOM, IN THE HEAT  
OF THE MOMENT,  
THROWS HERSELF  
TO...

OKAY,  
ENOUGH WITH  
THE CHICK LIT! CAN  
YOU CONTINUE WITH  
LESS ROMANCE?

OKAY, ONCE HE  
TIED THEM UP, THEY  
STARTED TELLING US  
EVERYTHING.

THAT'S WHEN WE  
LEARNED THAT  
ANGE & CO. WENT  
DOWN TO HELL...

FUNERAILLES SEEMED TO THINK  
THAT THIS MEANT A CRISIS FAR  
WORSE THAN THE CURRENT  
WAS COMING.

HE IMMEDIATELY  
INFORMED SCPIO AND THEN  
THEY WENT DOWN THERE  
TOGETHER TO GET THE  
SAINT-ANGE STUDENTS  
BACK.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN  
THE DEAN MAKE SUCH A  
SERIOUS FACE BEFORE.  
HIS USUAL SWIRK WAS  
REPLACED BY A STERN  
AND FOCUSED LOOK.

IF CHANCE SWALLOWED  
THE KEY THEN HOW DID  
WE GET THROUGH THE  
LOCKER DOOR?

CATCH  
CATCH

IRONICALLY, IT WAS RATHER SIMPLE...  
WHILE CHANCE AND I WERE GETTING  
ATTACKED, DUDIKOV GOT OUT OF THE  
PARTY. YOU FOLLOWED HIM AND THAT'S  
WHEN YOU SAW HOW HE OPENED THE  
SECRET PASSAGE.

SO YOU TOOK THAT  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
HOLD THE DOOR.

HOW DID WE  
DO THAT?

GOOD OLD  
SALESMAN  
METHOD.

THE MAN WENT  
DOWN THE STAIRS  
WITHOUT EVEN  
LOOKING BEHIND  
HIM.





AND THAT'S WHEN WE MET UP WITH YOU—JUST WHEN YOU WERE GETTING READY TO GO DOWN THERE.



BUT BEFORE THAT, WE STILL HAD ONE UNPLEASANT THING TO DO...



I DID THAT?

YEAH, AND MORE THAN ONCE!



WHEN YOU FINALLY GOT DOWN, YOU CLOSED THE DOOR ON MY HAND! I ALMOST THOUGHT YOU BROKE MY BAT WATCH.



AND I HAD TO LEAVE THE MAIN PART OF IT BEHIND.



BEFORE YOU FEEL GUILTY OF ANYTHING, YOU NEED TO HEAR THIS.

YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT HE HAD ALREADY MADE SEVERAL OPERATIONS FAIL BEFORE.



EVERY TIME THERE WAS A TRAP...



OR WHEN HE WAS SUPPOSED TO KEEP QUIET...



WE COULD HAVE HAD THOSE DOCUMENTS A LONG TIME AGO IF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR MISSIONS HADN'T BEEN RUINED BY THIS IDIOT.

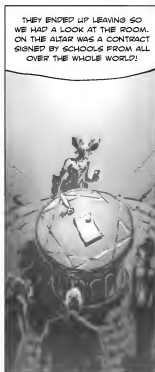
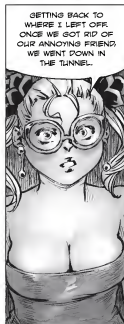
FOLLOWING DUDIKOV WAS OUR LAST CHANCE TO MEET HIM, SO YOU DID WHAT WAS NECESSARY.



HOW CAN YOU BE SO USELESS?

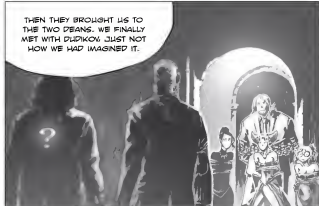
HEY!







THE MEN WERE HEAVILY ARMED. WE SURRENDERED TO AVOID A BLOODBATH.



THEN THEY BROUGHT US TO THE TWO DEANS. WE FINALLY MET WITH DUDIKOV. JUST NOT HOW WE HAD IMAGINED IT.



THEY SEARCHED US AND FOUND THE PHONE WITH WHICH WE HAD TAKEN THE PICTURES...

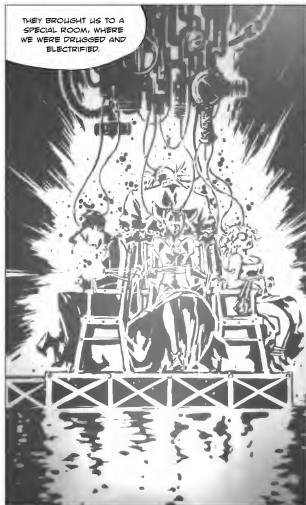


THEN THE TWO MEN DISCUSSED WHAT TO DO WITH US. SERVANT WAS IN FAVOR OF A RADICAL METHOD.

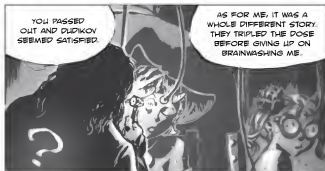
THEY KNOW TOO MUCH. THEY MUST DISAPPEAR.

NO, CORNELIUS. WE'RE DOING IT MY WAY THIS TIME.

DUDIKOV SAVED US BY SUGGESTING TO ERASE OUR MEMORY.



THEY BROUGHT US TO A SPECIAL ROOM, WHERE WE WERE DRUGGED AND ELECTRIFIED.



YOU PASSED OUT AND DUDIKOV SEEMED SATISFIED.

AS FOR ME, IT WAS A WHOLE DIFFERENT STORY. THEY TRIPLED THE DOSE BEFORE GIVING UP ON BRAINWASHING ME.



WE WERE SEPARATED WHEN THOSE MEN IN BLACK TOOK YOUR BODIES. I THINK YOU KNOW THE REST.

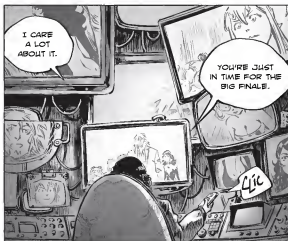
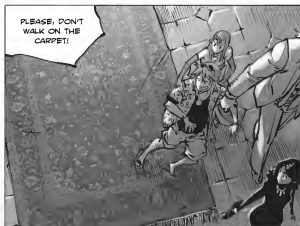
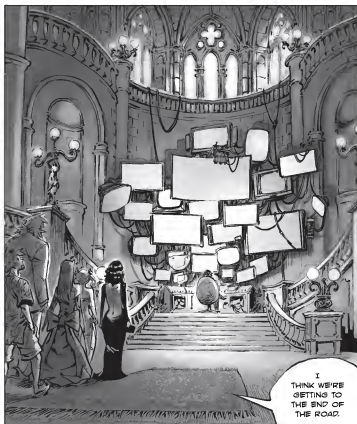


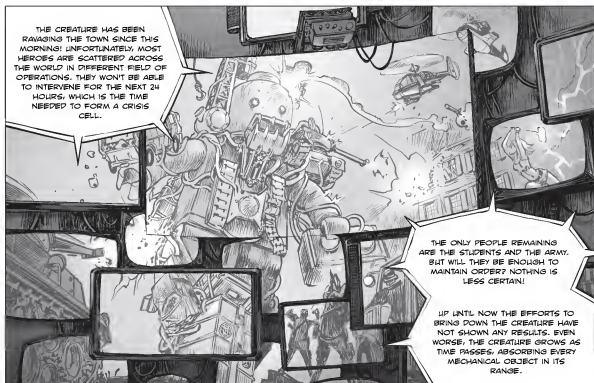
FINE! WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?



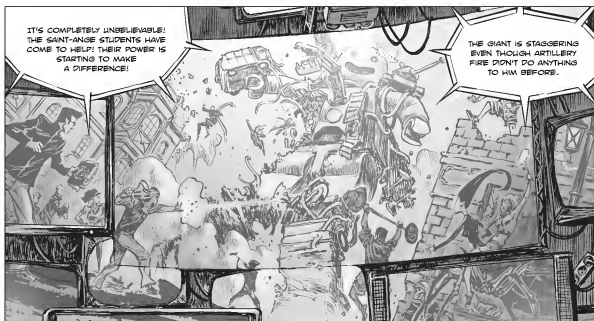
I THINK I KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE. WE CAN GO ON.

AND NO NEED TO BE SNEAKY.



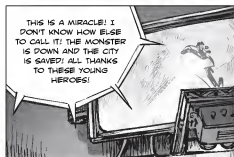




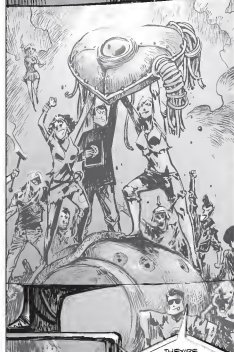


IT'S COMPLETELY UNBELIEVABLE!  
THE SAINT-ANGE STUDENTS HAVE  
COME TO HELP! THEIR POWER IS  
STARTING TO MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE!

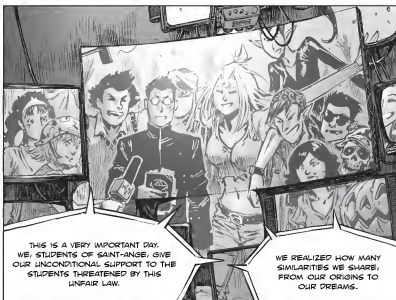
THE GIANT IS STAGGERING  
EVEN THOUGH ARTILLERY  
FIRE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING  
TO HIM BEFORE.



THIS IS A MIRACLE! I  
DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE  
TO CALL IT: THE MONSTER  
IS DOWN AND THE CITY  
IS SAVED! ALL THANKS  
TO THESE YOUNG  
HEROES!

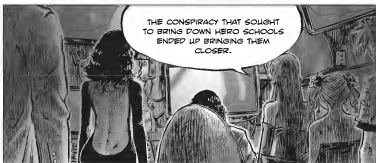


THEY'RE  
BRANDISHING  
THE HEART OF THE  
CREATURE TOGETHER,  
AS A SIGN OF  
FRIENDSHIP.



THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT DAY.  
WE, STUDENTS OF SAINT-ANGE, GIVE  
OUR UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT TO THE  
STUDENTS THREATENED BY THIS  
UNFAIR LAW.

WE REALIZED HOW MANY  
SIMILARITIES WE SHARE,  
FROM OUR ORIGINS TO  
OUR DREAMS.



THE CONSPIRACY THAT SOUGHT  
TO BRING DOWN HERO SCHOOLS  
ENDED UP BRINGING THEM  
CLOSER.



AND SOMETHING TELLS  
ME THAT YOU HAVE  
SOMETHING TO DO  
WITH IT.

Grin

DON'T YOU,  
MR. PREVIOUS  
DEAN?





OR SHOULD I SAY:  
GEOFFROY DUDIKOV,  
KNOWN AS "THE DUDE"?

OLD SIGMUND WOULD SAY  
THAT MY "SELF" WANTED  
TO SCREW THIS LAW UP,  
BUT THAT I LACKED THE  
BALLS TO ACTUALLY DO IT.



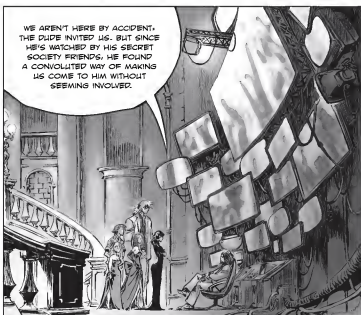
YOUR PLAN WAS  
VERY RISKY. WE COULD  
HAVE GONE IN CIRCLES  
WITHOUT EVER FINDING  
YOUR HIDING PLACE.

AS FOR THE MANIFESTATIONS  
THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR  
MONTHS, IT'S A MIRACLE THAT  
THEY HAVEN'T DEGENERATED  
INTO SOMETHING WORSE.

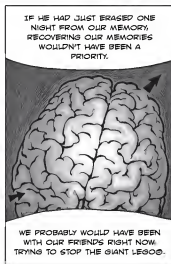


HUM... WAIT.  
I'M NOT SURE I  
FOLLOW YOU.

YES, EXPLAIN.  
WHAT YOU MEAN.

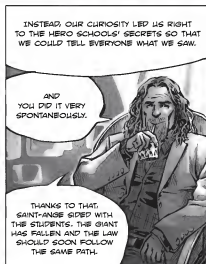


WE AREN'T HERE BY ACCIDENT.  
THE DUDE INVITED US. BUT SINCE  
HE'S WATCHED BY HIS SECRET  
SOCIETY FRIENDS, WE FOUND  
A CONVOLUTED WAY OF MAKING  
US COME TO HIM WITHOUT  
SEEMING INVOLVED.



IF HE HAD JUST ERASED ONE  
NIGHT FROM OUR MEMORY,  
RECOVERING OUR MEMORIES  
WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A  
PRIORITY.

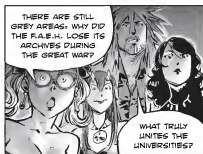
WE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEEN  
TRYING TO STOP THE GIANT LEGOS.



INSTEAD, OUR CURIOSITY LED US RIGHT  
TO THE HERO SCHOOLS' SECRETS SO THAT  
WE COULD TELL EVERYONE WHAT WE SAW.

AND  
YOU DID IT VERY  
SPONTANEOUSLY.

THANKS TO THAT,  
SAINT-ANGE SIDED WITH  
THE STUDENTS. THE GIANT  
HAS FALLEN AND THE LAW  
SHOULD SOON FOLLOW  
THE SAME PATH.



THERE ARE STILL  
GREY AREAS. WHY DID  
THE F.A.E.H. LOSE ITS  
ARCHIVES DURING  
THE GREAT WAR?

WHAT TRULY  
UNITES THE  
UNIVERSITIES?



FAIR  
ENOUGH. YOU  
DESERVE SOME  
EXPLANATIONS.

IF YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND THE REALITY OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE HERO UNIVERSITIES, I NEED TO EXPLAIN HOW THEY WERE FOUNDED.

WE OWE THE BEGINNINGS OF THIS SYSTEM TO A SMALL MAN NAMED PICO DI LODOVICO BUGNAROTTI SIMONI. YOU CAN SEE HIS PORTRAIT ON THE WALL.

HE BECAME RICH AS A PROSPECTOR FOR THE CROWN OF DENISE, THE CITY OF LOSSES.



AFTER A LENGTHY CAMPAIGN IN NORTHERN GERMANY, HE CAME BACK TO HIS COUNTRY WITH ENOUGH GEMS AND GOLD TO BUILD AN EMPIRE. HIS STORY CREATED THE MYTH OF THE DWARVES AS WE KNOW IT AND INSPIRED STORYTELLERS AROUND THE WORLD.

BUT EVEN IF HE WAS OF SMALL STATURE, PICO'S IDEAS WERE GRAND.



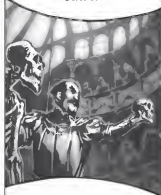
HE INVESTED THE FUNDS HE HAD ACCUMULATED IN A SCHOOL, WITH THE GOAL TO PROVIDE A GOOD EDUCATION FOR THOSE BORN DIFFERENT, LIKE HIM.

THE SUCCESS OF HIS SCHOOL SOON WENT BEYOND HIS EXPECTATIONS. IN A SHORT TIME, ALL THE WEIRD AND DEFORMED CREATURES OF THE CITY GATHERED IN HIS ESTABLISHMENT.



A REAL COUR D'ES MIRACLES.

NATURALLY, GREAT MINDS, WHOSE IDEAS WEREN'T APPROVED BY THE CITY, CAME TO TEACH AT THIS SCHOOL.



AND EVEN IF IT MIGHT SEEM TRIVIAL TO YOU TODAY, CLASSES WERE OPEN TO WOMEN WHO DESIRED TO LEARN.

THE SECRET FEMINIST NETWORK, FRAGILE BUT ALREADY VERY ACTIVE, SANG THE SCHOOL'S HIGHEST PRAISES IN ALL THE IMPORTANT PLACES OF THE TIME, WHICH WAS VERY FORTUNATE BECAUSE MONSTERS AND STUDENT ARRIVED FROM ALL OVER THE HOLY EMPIRE AND THE SCHOOL BECAME A UNIVERSITY. THIS CHANGE COST MORE THAN WHAT PICO COULD PAY ON HIS OWN.



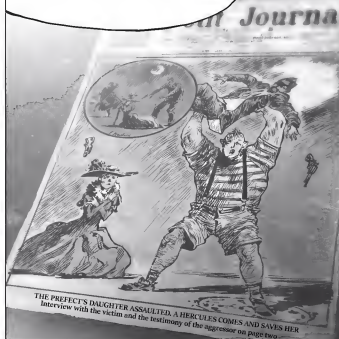
THE NECESSARY FUNDS CAME FROM THE ARCHITECTS' GUILD, WHOSE EMBLEMS WERE A SET SQUARE AND A COMPASS.



NOBODY REALLY KNOWS WHERE AND WHEN THE FIRST ARCHITECTS MET FOR THE FIRST TIME. THEY WERE NAVIGATORS, BUILDERS, MERCHANTS... AND WHILE KINGS WERE AT WAR WITH EACH OTHER, THEY PROSPERED IN THE SHADOWS. NEVERTHELESS, AFTER YEARS OF GROWTH AND EXPANSION, THE SECRET SOCIETY WENT THROUGH AN IDENTITY CRISIS. INVESTING IN THE FUTURE AND IN NEW POWERS WAS A REAL LIFE SAVER FOR THE BROTHERHOOD.



AS THE YEARS WENT BY, THE UNIVERSITY GREW SO MUCH THAT THE AUTHORITIES STARTED TO WORRY ABOUT ALL THESE MONSTERS. THE DEAN OF THE TIME THEN HAD THE INSOLENT BUT GENIUS IDEA OF DOING THE EXACT OPPOSITE OF WHAT THE FREAKS' APPEARANCE SUGGESTED.



USING ALL THE MEDIA AVAILABLE AT THE TIME, THE MONSTERS SOON BECAME THE HEROES OF THE PEOPLE.



UNFORTUNATELY, A NEW CRISIS HAPPENED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE 1929 WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS. THE FACULTY HAD TO REDUCE ITS BUDGET. THE STUDENTS AND THE MONSTERS THAT HAD ALREADY GRADUATED COULD ALREADY BE DIVIDED INTO THOSE THAT LOOKED NICE ENOUGH TO PASS AS GOOD GUYS AND THOSE THAT, DUE TO THEIR ORIGINS OR APPEARANCE, COULDN'T.



ALL IT NEEDED WAS SOME NEWS STORY, A SPARK TO BE USED AS A CASUS BELLI. THE WAR BETWEEN HEROES AND MONSTERS STARTED IN 1933. THE UNIVERSITY LIVED ITS DARKEST HOURS.

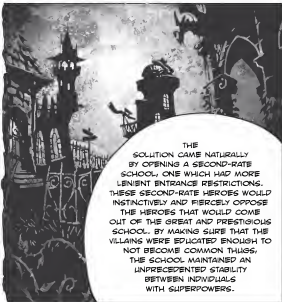


AFTER FOUR LONG YEARS OF CONFLICTS THAT SET THE WORLD ABLAZE, AN ARMISTICE WAS SIGNED. THE SCHOOL COULD FINALLY START REBUILDING ITSELF, BUT TO AVOID ANOTHER WAR OF THIS MAGNITUDE, THE HEROES OF THE HIGH COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTS AGREED TO CREATE A NEW SET OF FOUNDATIONS.

AND TO KEEP A TIGHT LEASH ON THE WHOLE SITUATION, IT WAS DECIDED THAT A NEW TYPE OF SCHOOL WOULD OPEN, VILLAIN SCHOOLS. OF COURSE IT COULDN'T BE OFFICIAL, AS NO STUDENT IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD WANT TO JOIN SUCH AN ESTABLISHMENT.



THE SOLUTION CAME NATURALLY BY OPENING A SECOND-RATE SCHOOL, ONE WHICH HAD MORE LENIENT ENTRANCE RESTRICTIONS. THESE SECOND-RATE HEROES WOULD INSTINCTIVELY AND FERCELY OPPOSE THE HEROES THAT WOULD COME OUT OF THE GREAT AND PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL, BY MAKING SURE THAT THE VILLAINS WERE EDUCATED ENOUGH TO NOT BECOME COMMON THUGS, THE SCHOOL MAINTAINED AN UNPRECEDENTED STABILITY BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS WITH SUPERPOWERS.

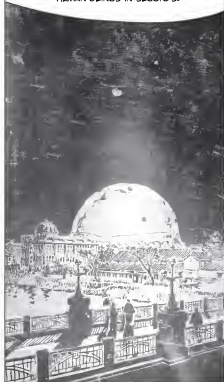


BUT THIS METHOD DIDN'T SURVIVE THE 1973 OIL CRISIS. CRUSHED BY DEBTS AND SUCKED DRY BY THE SUDDEN WITHDRAWALS OF FOREIGN BANKS' CAPITALS, THE COUNTRIES THAT WERE DEFEATED IN THE FIRST 1933 WAR HAD NO OTHER CHOICE THAN TO ENTER INTO ANOTHER WAR AFTER YEARS OF POVERTY.



THE LINE BETWEEN HEROES AND VILLAINS WAS SO CLEAR THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY, THE COUNTRIES TOOK HEROES INTO A GLOBALIZED CONFLICT FOR BOTH MILITARISTIC AND IDEOLOGICAL REASONS.

THE WORLD FELL INTO CHAOS. WHEN THE AMERICANS USED LITTLE-BOY, RESULT OF YEARS OF RESEARCH ON A HERO CAPABLE OF CREATING NUCLEAR FIRE, NOBODY HAD THE ABILITY TO STOP HIM. HE BLEW HIMSELF UP IN THE TOWN OF AKIRA, JAPAN, OBLITERATING A QUARTER MILLION HUMAN BEINGS IN SECONDS.



IN A POST-APOCALYPTICAL COLD WAR CONTEXT, AND REALIZING THAT THE COMBINED POWERS OF HEROES COULD ERADICATE ALL LIFE ON EARTH, THE TWO SCHOOLS DECIDED TO SCATTER THEMSELVES INTO A MYRIAD OF UNIVERSITIES, BLURRING THE BORDER BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL.



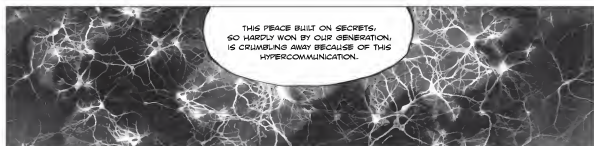
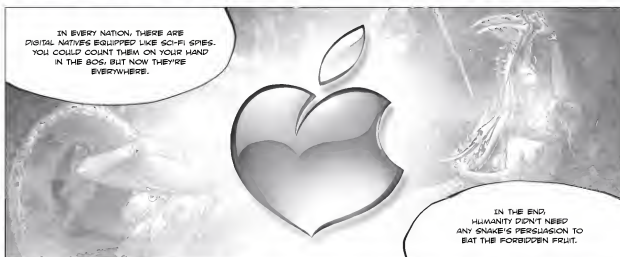
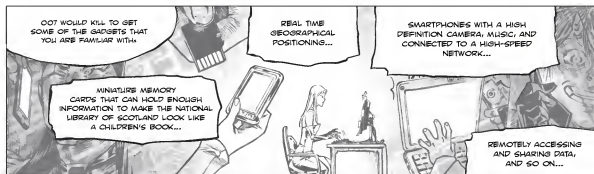
THE BALANCE THAT TOOK PLACE IS THE ONE YOU HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN, THIS FORMULA, UNSTABLE BUT AT THE SAME TIME CAPABLE OF REORGANIZING ITSELF, IS PERHAPS THE BEST ONE THE UNIVERSITY HAS EVER KNOWN. UNFORTUNATELY, IT IS BASED ON THE IGNORANCE OF THE REALITIES OF THE PROFESSIONAL HERO WORLD.



REALITIES THAT ARE STARTING TO GET MORE KNOWN THANKS TO, OR BECAUSE OF, THE GLOBALIZATION OF MINIATURIZED MEANS OF COMMUNICATION AND MOBILE PHONES.



WHICH MEANS THAT TODAY THE FACT IS CREATING WORRYING TREMORS, FOR THOSE WHO CAN SEE THE SIGNS.







THAT'S WHY YOU NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SCHOOL AND ITS ORIGINS. YOU ALREADY A PART OF THIS WORLD. AND WHO KNOWS? MAYBE TOMORROW YOU WILL HAVE TO LEAD, LIKE I HAD TO.

CORNELIUS AND THE OTHER DEANS THOUGHT THAT BY GOING BACK TO THE FUNDAMENTALS, EVERYTHING WOULD GO BACK TO NORMAL.

THEY'RE WRONG. THEY'RE SO FIXATED ON THEIR IDEAS THAT THEY CAN'T SEE THE REVOLUTION IS ALREADY ON THEIR DOORSTEPS.

DO NOT MAKE THE SAME MISTAKES AS US, THE ONES THAT BROUGHT US INTO THIS CYCLE OF DESTRUCTION. BREAK THE VICIOUS CIRCLE, AND PLEASE, LET ME ENJOY MY RETIREMENT.



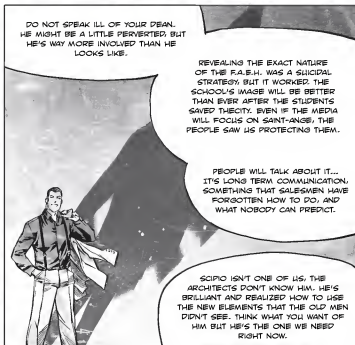
WHY US AND NOT SOMEONE ELSE?

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO TRUST US?



DECIDE? I DIDN'T DECIDE... SCPIO DID.

SCPIO? THAT OPPORTUNISTIC PERVERT?



DO NOT SPEAK ILL OF YOUR DEAN. HE MIGHT BE A LITTLE PERVERSED, BUT HE'S WAY MORE INVOLVED THAN HE LOOKS LIKE.

REVEALING THE EXACT NATURE OF THE F.A.S.H. WAS A SUICIDAL STRATEGY, BUT IT WORKED. THE SCHOOL'S IMAGE WILL BE BETTER THAN EVER AFTER THE STUDENTS SAVED THECITY. EVEN IF THE MEDIA WILL FOCUS ON SAINT-ANGE, THE PEOPLE SAW US PROTECTING THEM.

PEOPLE WILL TALK ABOUT IT... IT'S LONG TERM COMMUNICATION. SOMETHING THAT SALESMEN HAVE FORGOTTEN HOW TO DO, AND WHAT NOBODY CAN PREDICT.

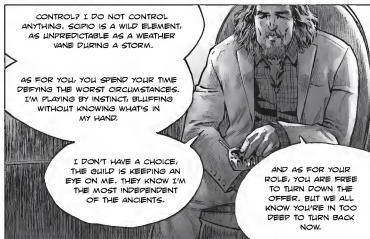
SCPIO ISN'T ONE OF US, THE ARCHITECTS DON'T KNOW HIM. HE'S BRILLIANT AND REALIZED HOW TO USE THE NEW ELEMENTS THAT THE OLD MEN DIDN'T SEE. THINK WHAT YOU WANT OF HIM BUT HE'S THE ONE WE NEED RIGHT NOW.



TSK! LOOKS LIKE OUR STRINGS WERE BEING PULLED FROM THE START!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK WE'LL JUST ACCEPT THOSE ROLES YOU'RE GIVING US?

DO YOU LIKE CONTROLLING EVERYTHING? DIPS, OR MAYBE SHOULD I SAY "GOD"?

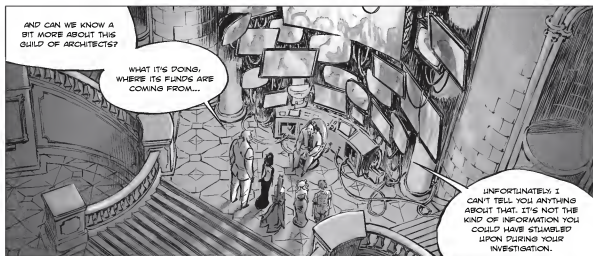


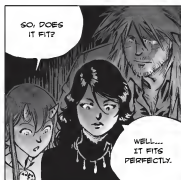
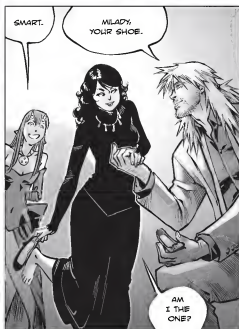
CONTROL? I DO NOT CONTROL ANYTHING. SCPIO IS A WILD ELEMENT, AS UNPREDICTABLE AS A WEATHER VANE DURING A STORM.

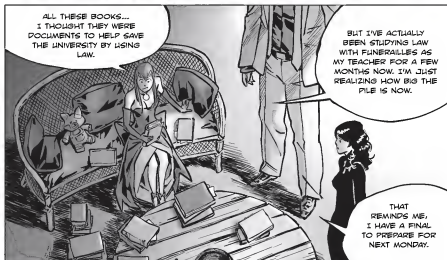
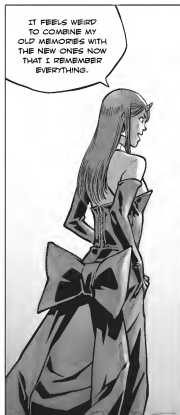
AS FOR YOU, YOU SPEND YOUR TIME DEFINING THE WORST CIRCUMSTANCES. I'M PLAYING BY INSTINCT, BLUFFING WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT'S IN MY HAND.

I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, THE GUILD IS KEEPING AN EYE ON ME. THEY KNOW I'M THE MOST INDEPENDENT OF THE ANCIENTS.

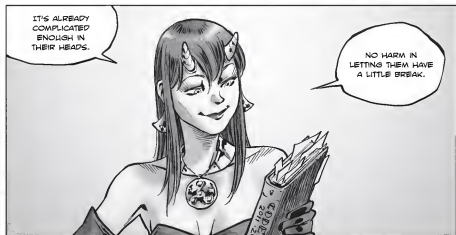
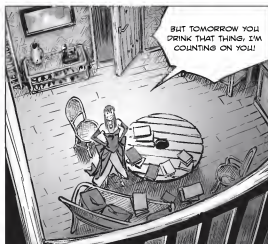
AND AS FOR YOUR ROLE, YOU ARE FREE TO TURN DOWN THE OFFER. BUT WE ALL KNOW YOU'RE IN TOO DEEP TO TURN BACK NOW.





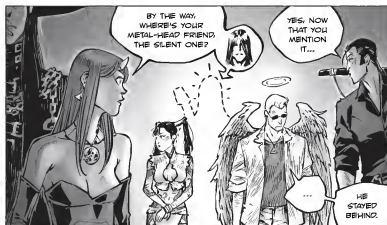


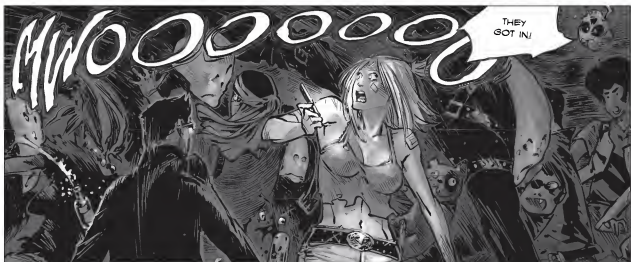
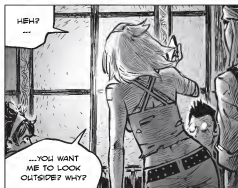
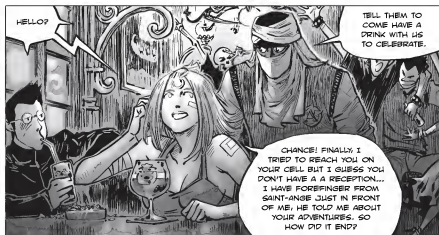


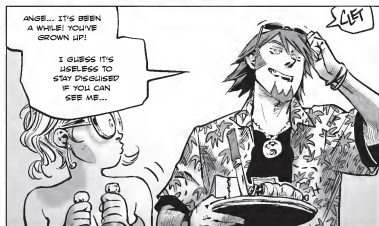
















A NEW  
INTRODUCTION  
IS REQUIRED.



YOU?  
HERE?

SOME  
CALL ME PAN!  
OTHER FAUNUS!  
HELLEQUIN OR  
ARLEQUIN...



EVERY  
PEOPLE HAS  
A NAME FOR  
ME.

BEGONE,  
DEMON!

SOME  
HAVE EVEN  
DEMONIZED  
ME.



I AM THE  
GREAT CORRUPTER.  
THE MASTER OF  
ILLUSIONS. I AM  
SHATAN.

I SHOULD HAVE  
KNOWN. YOU'RE  
ALWAYS HERE WHEN  
THE END OF THE  
WORLD IS NEAR.



BUT MY  
FRIENDS  
CALL ME  
CERNUNNOS.



BY THE WAY, CHANCE-  
OR SHOULD I SAY  
"PIPISTRELLE", HAVE  
YOU GUESSED YET?



SOME PEOPLE CALL ME THE SPACE COWBOY, YEAH  
 SOME CALL ME THE GANGSTER OF LOVE  
 SOME PEOPLE CALL ME MAURICE  
 CAUSE I SPEAK OF THE POMPATUS OF LOVE

PEOPLE KEEP TALKIN' ABOUT ME, BABY  
 SAY I'M DOIN' YOU WRONG, DOIN' YOU WRONG  
 WELL, DON'T YOU WORRY BABY  
 DON'T WORRY  
 CAUSE I'M RIGHT HERE,  
 RIGHT HERE, RIGHT HERE,  
 RIGHT HERE AT HOME

CAUSE I'M A PICKER  
 I'M A GRINNER  
 I'M A LOVER  
 AND I'M A SINNER  
 I PLAY MY MUSIC IN THE SUN

I'M A JOKER  
 I'M A SMOKER  
 I'M A MIDNIGHT TOKER  
 I GET MY LOVIN' ON THE RUN  
 WOOO WOOOOO +



**FIN**  
 DE L'ÉPISODE.

...WHERE ARE XIONG MAO AND OMBRE?

...IS CERNLINNOS  
REALLY CHANCE'S FATHER?  
OR IS IT ONE OF HIS BAD  
JOKES AGAIN?

...WHAT HAPPENED TO  
VALKYRIE, SABLON AND  
ALL THE OTHERS AT  
THE BAR?

...IS CHANCE'S NAME  
REALLY PIPISTRELLE?

...WHO ARE THOSE  
MONSTERS FROM HELL?

SOON THE ANSWERS TO ALL THESE  
QUESTIONS ON MULTI-SCREEN IN THE  
SIXTH EPISODE OF FREAKS' SQUEELE:

CLEMENTINE

## CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF THE LAST EVENTS:

### End of September:

Assassination attempt on Scipio.

Beginning of negotiations between the Forest Council and the F.A.E.H.  
The triads are keeping quiet, but the werewolves are as active as ever.

### December:

Next year's calendar is signed.

The young forest Goddess will be planted in the ruins of the old Gallo-Roman forum.

### January:

The Therian brotherhood arrives at the F.A.E.H. to hold back the wolf pack.

### Mid-March:

The F.A.E.H. students learn that the government is preparing a law to prevent new schools from giving diplomas.

Chance and Cernunnos meet.

### End of March:

Day of the Equinox and Spring feast with the Council, the brotherhood and the F.A.E.H. The wolf pack, helped by the werecats, attacks the new Goddess. The council and the brotherhood get together to defend her.

### Beginning of April:

6 Saint-Ange students are sent to prevent prying students to find sensible information.

### April:

Beginning of the students' protests, the government isn't giving in.

### End of April:

The F.A.E.H. students try to meet The Dude for the first time.

### May:

Some professors and heroes support the students and protest with them.

### Beginning of June:

The F.A.E.H. students try to meet The Dude for the second time.

### June 19th:

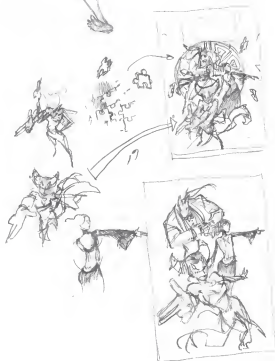
Graduation ceremony for the third year F.A.E.H. students.

### June 20th around 1am:

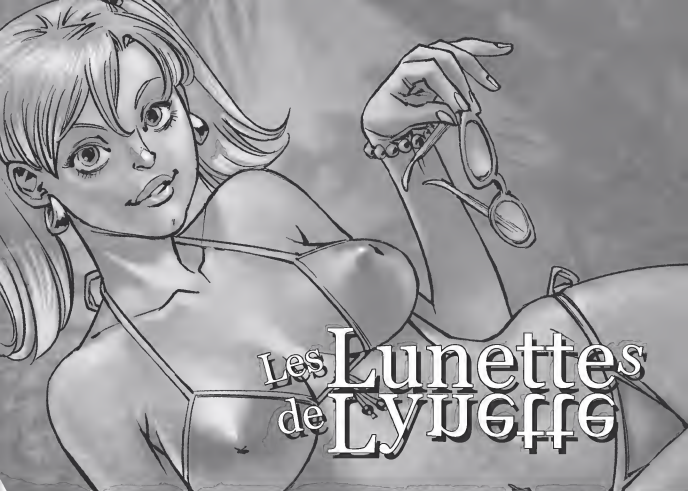
4 F.A.E.H. students are caught wandering around where they shouldn't have. 3 of them are released after having their memory erased.

### June 21st:

The same F.A.E.H. students meet The Dude and get top-secret information from him. The same day, a giant work of art attacks the city. It will be stopped by the protesting students helped by the army and Saint-Ange students.







\*EN LUNETTES.

SO: TODAY I WILL TELL YOU HOW I GOT THAT FAMOUS GLASSES PICTURE. YOU ALL THINK IT WAS EDITED ON PHOTOSHOP. WELL IT'S TRUE THAT IT WAS EDITED, BUT NOT IN THE WAY YOU'RE THINKING. ALSO, IF YOU BEHAVE WELL, I MIGHT TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED NEXT. WE'LL SEE IF WE HAVE ENOUGH TIME. ANYWAY...

EVERYTHING STARTED THE DAY WHEN MS. DUCASTEL, THE IMAGE AND STYLE PROFESSOR, ASKED US, EVERY GIRL FROM EVERY YEAR, TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONTEST FOR A BIG MODEL AGENCY. THE FIRST AND UNIQUE PRIZE WAS TO BE ABLE TO POSE FOR THE PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN OF L'UNREAL, WHO WAS LOOKING FOR A NEW MUSE. IT'S WELL KNOWN, CONTESTS ARE MADE TO DO HUMAN RESOURCES' WORK IN A LESS EXPENSIVE WAY. SO, WE WENT TO THE CONTEST, EVEN IF WE DIDN'T REALLY FELT LIKE IT. THE BOYS STARTED TAKING BETS, AND THAT'S WHEN IT BECAME FUNNY BECAUSE THERE'S ALWAYS MONEY TO BE MADE IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION. ONLY GLASSES AND I WERE LEFT WAITING FOR OUR TURN. I WANTED TO CHEER HER UP A LITTLE, MAKE HER FEEL MORE CONFIDENT YOU KNOW? SO I TOOK HER BIG GLASSES OFF, AND THAT'S WHEN I SAW IT...

I WENT BETTING ON GLASSES IMMEDIATELY, WHILE ALL THE ODDS WERE AGAINST HER. OF COURSE NOBODY KNEW THAT WHEN SHE TAKES OFF HER GLASSES SHE BECOMES A TOTAL BOMBSHELL RIVALING EVEN VALKYRIE. THE PICTURE TOOK THAT DAY IS PROOF. HER BODY IS PERFECT, AND THE PICTURE ISN'T GIVING HER JUSTICE, EVERYTHING IN HER ATTITUDE SMELLED LIKE SEX. HOWEVER, SHE CAN'T SEE ANYTHING AND BECOMES COMPLETELY DUMB. I THINK I KNOW WHY SHE DIDN'T GO FOR LENSES: HER GLASSES ARE MAGICAL...

OUR LITTLE FRIEND RANKED FIRST IN EVERY CATEGORY, EVERY SCHOOL INCLUDED. EVERYONE PARTIED SO HARD. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE F.A.E.H. HAD EVER WON A MISS CONTEST. THEN WE HAD THIS CRAZY IDEA... LITTLE PANDA HAD NOTICED THAT THE DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE OF THE CONTEST AND THIS NEW CAMPAIGN WAS SOMEWHAT LAX... WE DUG A LITTLE AND FOUND OUT THAT SHE WAS PUT IN CHARGE BY THE GROUP'S OWNER, WHO WAS A BIT SENILE (SHE'S BEEN PUT UNDER A GUARDIAN'S SUPERVISION SINCE). SO WE THOUGHT WE COULD TRY SOMETHING. I INTENDED TO BE SOMEONE IN CHARGE AND I FOOLED THE PHOTOGRAPHERS AND THE GRAPHIC DESIGNERS IN CHARGE OF THE WHOLE THING. THEY WERE RELUCTANT AT FIRST BUT I MANAGED TO CONVINCE THEM THAT GLASSES HAD TO HAVE HER PICTURE TAKEN WITH HER GLASSES BECAUSE IT FIT THE NEW BEAUTY CANONS OF THE 2000S AND THAT EVERYTHING HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE HIGHER-UPS.



Before,  
I had  
GLASSES.

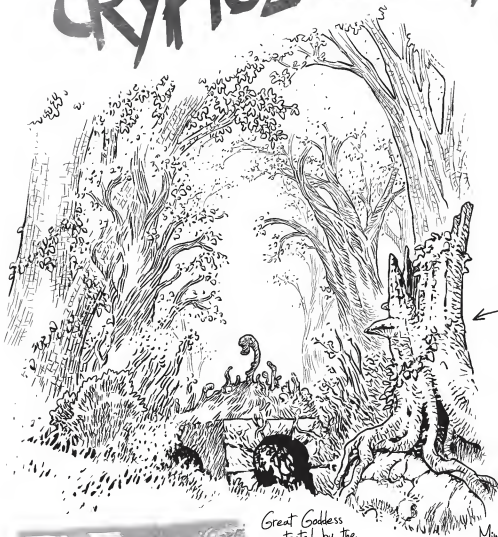


But  
that was  
before.\*

I HAD ANOTHER PROFITABLE IDEA AFTER SEEING THE RUSHES. I ASKED THE PRINTER TO PRINT ADDITIONAL POSTERS FOR ME AND TO GIVE ME THE CONTROL AND FAILED PICTURES. BECAUSE, IN THE END, THESE PICTURES WERE TOTALLY HOT. MY INSTINCT DIDN'T BETRAY ME. WHEN THE CAMPAIGN STARTED, THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE AT L'UNREAL WENT INTO PANIC MODE. THEY TOOK EVERYTHING OFF IN LESS THAN A WEEK. BUT SEVEN DAYS WERE ENOUGH TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON PEOPLE: THE WEAK MINDED MEN IN PARTICULAR. THE EXTRA POSTERS I GOT SOLD FOR A FORTUNE.



# PRECISIONS ON CRYPTOZOLOGY



Planting site of  
the young Goddess  
(the nursery)

Great Goddess  
protected by the  
council

Minerva Spirit of the Bear



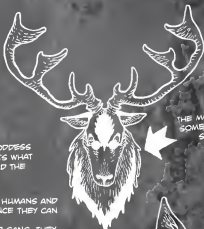


Bill  
(USA)



THERE ARE MANY GROUPS FIGHTING OVER THE NEW GODDESS OF THE FOREST. TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHO WANTS WHAT AND WHY, I AM GOING TO SHOW YOU THE FACTIONS AND THE PEOPLE IN THEM :

- THE WERECATS, THEY SEEK TO DOMINATE HUMANS AND ARE INFILTRATING ANY SPHERE OF INFLUENCE THEY CAN (VITALI)
- THE PACK, BETWEEN SECRET SOCIETY AND GANG, THEY ARE STAYING AT THE F.A.B.H AND TRIED TO ASSASSINATE SCIPIO (BILL)



THE MOTIVATIONS OF SOME GROUPS ARE STILL HAZY.

Conflict!



-THE FOREST COUNCIL, THEY PROTECT THE GODDESS AND WATCH OVER THE TERRITORY NEAR THE F.A.B.H (OMBRE DE LOUP, SPIRIT OF THE BEAR, MINERVA, SIR CROW)

Somehow helping each other..



Conflict!

-THE THERIAN BROTHERHOOD, IT'S A GROUP OF SHAPESHIFTERS RECRUITING ALL OVER THE WORLD. THEY ARE IN FAVOR OF HUMANS AND THE FOREST BECOMING CLOSER (MR WHITE, KITSUNE, KALONJI, STUART, JOSEPHINE, OMBRE)



Mr White  
(Alaska)



Josephine  
(Kenya)



Stuart  
(Tasmania)



Astoria  
(Mexico)



Kitsune  
(Kenya)



# FUNÉRAIRES

A SPIDER IS QUITE COMMON, WE SEE THEM EVERYWHERE. SOME ARE AFRAID OF THEM AND OTHERS THINK OF THEM AS PUNY INSECTS, WHICH THEY ARE NOT BY THE WAY, BUT IF ANYONE ASKED FOR A DESCRIPTION, IT WOULD PROBABLY SOUND LIKE THIS:

THE SPIDER IS A CREATURE FROM HELL COMING STRAIGHT OUT FROM THE TWISTED MIND OF A JUNKIE IN A BAD TRIP. IT HAS EIGHT ARMS AND AS MUCH EYES. IT HAS TWO HUGE FANGS FOR CUTTING UP FLESH AND ITS ONLY BREAST GIVES OUT MILK USED TO TRAP ITS VICTIMS.



THIS ANIMAL IS SO EXTRAORDINARY THAT ITS MOST VENOMOUS REPRESENTATIVES HAVE AN HOURGLASS TATTOOED ON THEIR STOMACH.

THE SPIDER, OR AT LEAST THE IDEA WE HAD OF IT, WAS THE EMBLEMATIC ANIMAL OF OUR CAPITAL. THE LEGEND SAYS THAT, CUT OFF FROM THEIR MOTHER, TWINS WERE FED BY A WOLF SPIDER. NOW ADULTS, ONE OF THE TWINS FOUNDED A CITY THAT WOULD LATER BECOME THE MEGALOPOLIS AT THE HEART OF OUR CIVILIZATION. NOBODY KNOWS WHAT BECAME OF THE OTHER TWIN. BUT IT'S NOT HARD TO IMAGINE: AFTER ALL, A SPIDER HAS ONLY ONE BREAST.

SCPIO.

## XIONG MAO

HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN THE SERIOUS WOMAN WE ALL KNOW. SHE WAS ONCE A FIERY YOUNG WOMAN, FIGHTING AGAINST A VERY SINGULAR AUTHORITY, EMBODIED BY THE TRIADS AND A MASTER OF FORGOTTEN MARTIAL ARTS. MEET HER SOON IN ROUGE, THE COMIC ILLUSTRATED BY SOURYA, WITH MAU FOR THE STORYLINE.





TRANSLATOR/CLEANER/TYSETTER:  
ROL

SPECIAL THANKS TO:  
AURIUM,  
SOCRATES,  
AND  
OMGWTFBGGPONIES

FOR PROOFREADING/QUALITY CHECKING

